

USC CANADA – Narrative Report Format, Annual report 2017-18

Name of Partner: USS Nilphamari

Title of Program: SoS Bangladesh

Reporting Period: May 1 2017 to April 30, 2018

Deadline for submission to USC: June, 2018

1. Introduction

a. Achievements and challenges (2 paragraphs only)

Highlight the major and most significant achievements and challenges of the first year and please explain if any changes or events have led you to change or shift your expectations for the project and foreseen outputs, outcomes and impact.

Udayankur Seba Sangstha (USS) is non-profit voluntary organization in Nilphamari district. USS started its development activities in Nilphamari since 2002. USS implemented seeds security and diversity, climate resilience, promotion of village economic and equality of men and women with the support of USC Canada through during this time. USS has developed skills as well relationship with government departments and civil society organizations. Based on learning and experiences of previous years USS is implementing **Seeds of Survival (SoS)** project in Laxmichap and Polashbari unions of Nilphamari sadar upazila from May, 2015 to improve seeds and nutrition for young women and men. Total right holder of the project is 3340 consisting 19 villages (male-668 and female-2672). Species and varieties of vegetable seeds production and storage properly has increased at home. Blast disease of rice and gangrin disease of potato has reduced using vermi compost by the farmers in their land. Parble yield has increased in vermi compost using crop field compare to chemical fertilizer using crop field. Fungal disease of chilli and bean has controlled significantly using Bordomixture. Organic vegetable cultivation around homestead areas has increased which areas was as fallow land. Vegetable cultivation in bed has increased. Movable techniques of seedling cultivation have also increased. Number of organic vegetable consumer has increased. Cucumber vegetable yield are increasing applying vermi compost and setting sex pheromon trap to control insect pest.

Challenges:

Some farmers are habituated with chemical fertilizer and pesticide. Pests are not control successfully using organic pesticide that's why farmer are not interest to cultivate organic vegetable commercially. Members are not getting extra prices of organic vegetable. Accomplish planned activities/events through different kinds of natural disasters like heavy rain and flood. Extension of vermi compost production by own initiatives. Women leadership practices at social structure. Members are not interested to sale product in collection point by own initiative.

2. Program Reach

a. Data on program reach: Please confirm figures. Note any adjustments

Program reach	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Notes
Number of participating districts	01	01	01	

Number of participating communities – defined as a Thana as that is the smallest government administrative unit	19 Communities of 02 Union in SadorNilphamariU pazila	19 Communities of 02 Union in SadorNilphamariU pazila	19 Communities of 02 Union in SadorNilphamariU pazila
Direct beneficiaries	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Households	3340	3340	3340
Adult Female (over 30 years)	-	-	-
Adult Male (over 30 years)	-	-	-
Youth Female (under 30 years)	2672	2672	2672
Youth Male (under 30 years)	668	668	668
Indirect beneficiaries	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Households	4200	5500	6600

3. Major activities for the period (including Table 1)

Describe the **major activities** by providing a summary of the accomplishments under each of the output/thematic areas of the Logic Model. Please consult the logic model to decide in which output area to place activities.

Also please UPDATE **Table 1** from the Semi Annual Accompanying this message

With the facilitation of USS 3340 right holders are organized in 114 groups and 80% are female members. The members are aware now on organic vegetable production and consumption, local seeds production collection and preservation and 35% members are practicing their earned skills and knowledge. They are preparing seeds plots separately. Most significant achievement is the members are very much inspired of producing Vermi compost. Even some people out of the groups are influenced for production of Vermi compost and use in their land. They are selling these products locally and enhancing family income controls by the women. Women participations are increasing day by day at family decision making process. Women mobility and dignity increased in the society which is contributing to promote gender equality in the society. Members of the project have developed communication and good relationships among them through participation of project activity like PVS workshop, farmer's field day with result sharing green pea plot, Eco and seed fair, demonstrate local variety seed plot, germplasm conservation, day observation on women rights, workshop and trainings. As a result confident level and capacity has been increased among the members. Communications have been developed with local government, agriculture department and civil society organizations. They are receiving quality services from those departments especially agriculture department extended positive support to the members. Through leadership of USS and support of USC Canada the project facilitators are working with friendly environment which increased their working speeds and thus major achievements are possible.

3.1. Output 1: Seed security and diversity

Activities under the output

Participatory Variety Selection (PVS):

Two Participatory Variety Selection workshops has completed in new and old areas with facilitation of USS staffs where participated 41 female and 09 male experienced farmers and many number of varieties and species

find out through Four Cell analysis. Green pea (BARI-2 & Local short dwarf), Tomato (Raton & Pusharobi) and silbilati potato selected from huge number of species which are cultivate in their areas.

PVS setting: 10 farmers among them 02 male and 08 female cultivated separately in 5 decimal land of selected variety. 4 farmers cultivated two varieties of green pea, 4 farmer two varieties of Tomato and 2 farmers silbilati potato in different location. Both green pea varieties showed more yield and as a new crop farmers are interested to cultivate in next year. Silbilati potato and Tomato variety showed low performance in this year due to disfavour environment. . They have eaten, sell of product and stored seeds for cultivate next year. It will be extended in through CSB network seed fair promotion activities. USS has provided 10 hand sprayers to 10 farmers to control pest in their vegetable field through spraying. These hand sprayer will use of group members as per need.

Demonstrate Local Variety Seed Plot:

10 farmers have produced local variety vegetables to increase seed production, collection and preservation and availability at community level. Every selected farmers established seed plots in every 5 decimal land which is total 50 decimal lands, cultivating winter and summer season vegetables. Five varieties like Noldog, BARI-1, IPSA-1, IPSA-2, I Red of bean. BARI-1 variety of bean has shown more yield performance among 5 varieties of bean. Farmers consume, and sell of vegetables and produced seeds to fulfil their demand and sell community & local market. Right holder has motivated to cultivate BARI-1 variety of bean in next season.

Strengthening ARC seed bank

Four staff coordination meeting has conducted during reporting period. A justified quarterly activities implementation plan has prepared sharing with staffs in these meeting. An open discussion has conducted in those meeting for learning sharing through expressing success, challenges and reason of success & technique of overcome challenges.

Successes: (one paragraph)

Project right holder are producing, harvesting, collecting and storing of different kinds of seeds through proper process. Family income has increased of selling quality seeds. Locally different kinds of seeds productions are increased and therefore dependence of market is decreased. There was insufficient verity of seeds in Palashbari union but nowadays it is increasing through exchange. 92 farmers received 83 varieties of seeds from ARC seed bank and 79 farmers provided 80 varieties of seeds to that bank in this year.

Challenges: (one paragraph)

Some farmers are habituated with chemical fertilizer and pesticide because chemical products are attractive color and size and consumer are interested to purchase these produce due to lack of their knowledge. Size, shape and color are not attractive and yield is comparatively less of organic product than chemical product so consumer want not purchase organic product with higher price. That's why farmers are not taking initiative to produce organic vegetables and fruits commercially. Local variety yield are less than hybrid which are not profitable for farmers.

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

We are sharing with peoples at organic market corner and organic vegetable selling areas by the mobile van regarding negative affect to human body result of chemical vegetables consumption and positive side of organic vegetable. USS is also aware to peoples on the subject of chemical crop cultivation negative effect to soil and environment. Young farmers have developed good relationship with the business man for selling vegetables and seeds through communication.

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

Organic vegetables demand has been increased in the local markets and in front of different office for reason of their awareness. There are available lands for vegetables cultivation in the working area.

It is easy to get raw material to produce vermi compost and organic pesticide in the working areas. Interests are increasing of right holders day by day to produce vermi compost.

3.2. Output 2: Natural Resource Management & Diversifying farming and food systems

By using vermi compost and different kinds of composts are contributing a lot for friendly environment and climate resilience factors. These relevant factors are coordinated with different institutions, GO/NGOs collaboration through observing national/international days, rallies, seminars, seeds and environment fair, which contributing to make climate change resilience environment. Established organic vegetables garden at homestead and adjacent homestead areas to increase the variety of seeds. USS has established Germplasm conservation plot by local indigenous species which are lost and variety preservation and expansion. Linkage has enhanced between demand side actors (Mobile Vendor, Market Corner, Agro Retailer, etc.) and Supply Side Actor (Farmer). To enhance the relationship among vegetable producer famers, experience farmers, UP members and young farmers through different workshop, field day etc.

Successes: (one paragraph)

Family income has increased by selling vermi and vermi compost. Women are playing vital role so they are empowered. Increasing and playing role to keep balanced environment using organic fertilizer. 1420 family are cultivating organic vegetables and consuming safety food under the project. On the other hand 120 family out of the project are also cultivating and consuming safe foods. 545 farmers are making and using vermi compost at their homestead and different type of crop field as a result organic materials are increasing day by day to land. 35 farmers producing vermi compost and 25 farmers are making organic pesticide by their own initiatives who are influenced by the project.

Challenges: (one paragraph)

Accomplish planned activities/events through different kinds of natural disasters like heavy rain and flood. Extension of vermi compost production by own initiatives of farmers. Organic vegetables are not bright and small in size, so it creates less demand in the market. Members are less interested because during making Liquid Manner and bio pesticide as it makes bad smell

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

Develop awareness among the members for advantages of the method of organic cultivation. Sharing of ideas to farmers on how they preserving and collecting liquid manure and bio pesticide. Increase marketing linkage of Vermi compost. Prepare contingency plan at starting of every year.

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

Vermi compost demand created in the working area. It is easy to get raw material for compost fertilizer and bio pesticide in the working area. Government agriculture extension department is spreading their helping to make vermi compost. Vegetables demand has been increased in the local markets. There is demand of quality indigenous seeds in the locally.

3.3. Output 3 Strengthened small farm based enterprises and promote marketing of seeds**Develop Vermi compost cluster:**

USS has distributed 80 nos ring to 40 right holder family at Laxmichap and palashabri union under Seeds of Survival (SoS) project supported by USC-Canada for varmi compost production, use and sell. The project has provided 250g worm per each ring receiving right holder. Project Coordinator of SoS project gave elaborate briefing how they will set ring and which protection measure have to taken to save worm from chicken, birds, ant and other harmful insects. Project coordinator also awarded the ring receiver why they use vermi compost in their soil and how they will be benefited. Selected Participants installed ring with shade maintaining other requirements following USS staffs suggestion. Now they are producing vermi compost successfully using their land for crop cultivation.

Demonstrate Organic Pesticides:

Seeds of Survival (SoS) project staffs of Udyankur Seba Sangstha (USS) arranged and conducted organic insecticide and fungicide preparation and use demonstration at 10 spots of Laxmichap and Palashbari union of Nilphamari district. There were 301 participants present among them 263 were female and 38 are male. At first project coordinator discussed in detail regarding importance of organic pesticide and negative impact to human being, other plant & animals, soil and environment. Secondly participants prepared organic insecticide by cattle urine, dust chilli, Garlic & onion pest and other bitter & medicinal value carrying plants following specific ration with the facilitation of SoS project Community Facilitators. Thirdly participants produced Organic fungicide name Bordo mixture using Lime and Blue vitriol following specific ratio with the facilitation of above mention CF to control of any kind of rotten cause by fungus. Finally participant's sprayed separately insecticide and fungicide practically dilute with water following specific ratio by the hand sprayer to their vegetable garden to control pest. A plastic drum and a hand sprayer have provided to the demonstration group from the mention project for organic pesticide preparation and to do spray in their pest infected vegetables garden. Respective project coordinator overall conducted the whole program. Sub Assistant Agriculture (SAAO) of DAE was present at the time of demonstration. All participants participated actively at first to last during running of the program. The participants are applying organic pesticide using hand sprayer to control both disease pest and insect pest.

Established Organic Market Corner:

Two organic market corner has established at Palashbari Bazer of Palashbari union and Beltoly bazer of Laxmichap union. An auto van puller collect organic vegetables from growers and sell different local market and houses to house.

Established Germplasm conservation of indigenous species:

Udyankur Seba Sangstha (USS) has distributed saplings to the selected 10 participant's Of Palashbari and Laxmichap union of Nilphamari district to conserve the indigenous species which are losing day by day. USS has distributed three types of sapling 1) Medicinal plant sapling like Neem, Amla, Myrobalan, Bohera & Arjuna 2) Fruit trees sapling like Carambola, Chalta, Pomgranat, Olive, Hog plum, Lemon and 3)Spices trees sapling of

Cinnamon & Cassia leaf to the above mention participant. USS has provided hand sprayer separately to the participants during distribution of sapling to control insect pest and disease pest of sapling as well as homesteads vegetables using organic pesticide. Project coordinator discussed regarding organic fertilizer applying, planting, sticking, fencing, irrigating and nursing during distribution of sapling to aware of the participants. Sub Assistant Agriculture (SAAO) of DAE was present at the time of distribution of sapling. S.M Rokib Abedin has discussed how they may be able to get organic fruits and vegetables from their own homestead areas. Participants are satisfied to get of the saplings.

Successes: (one paragraph)

55 of model seed bank houses have been established in the community. 50 members of Laxmichap union started seeds business. They sell seeds to the seed businessman in the market. Most of the times farmers and local seed businessman come to their house for purchasing seeds. Every seeds bank farmers earned 2500-6500 Tk. by selling seeds in this year.

Challenges: (one paragraph)

There is no certification of seeds tack and packets. There are no moisture measure machines. Availability of high breed seeds in the market. More yield of high breed seed.

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

Linkage and networking among the young farmers and seeds business holders. Arrange training, group meeting and set model seeds plots to encourage quality vegetables. Establishing more model seeds bank house in the community

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

There is a positive environment for producing seeds in the communities and already seed banks model houses are established. Awareness is being conducting through different media as well mass gathering on climate change resilience, safe environment and disadvantages of using chemical fertilizers and pesticide. Mass people are aware in the issues. Gradually people are show interest to produce organic productions. As a result quantity and quality of local seeds are increasing day by day.

3.4. Gender equality

Training on gender for the youth & young farmer:

Two batch gender training has held at USS Head Office hall room dated on 16th September, 2017 and 30th November, 2017 to reduce gender based discrimination earning equality between male and female. Total 53 young & youth participants attended and took actively participations in the training. Female 44 and male 09 participants were present among the total participants in the training. Md. Abdul Kuddus Sarker Education coordinator delivered welcome speech and Md. Alauddin Ali, Executive Director of USS inaugurated the day long training. The discussed topic are difference between sex and gender, gender discriminations and the causes, role of productive-reproductive and social role, division of labour, position and status of women in family & society at present, Violence, type of violence causes & effect of violence against women, women empowerment, initiative to earning gender equality etc

Lecture, group work, presentation and memorable event sharing methods were used to make the sessions attractive and participatory in the training. All participants were committed to established gender equality in their family, society and organization. The training was conducted by gender development officer of Promoting Gender Equality through Local Knowledge & Peoples Initiative Project.

Observation of International Women Day

Udayankur Seba Sangstha (USS) has observed International Women Day under Seeds of Survival (SoS) project on 08th March'2018 at district level. A colorful rally started from Deputy Commissioner (DC) office, Nilphamari at 10:00 am and moved main roads of Nilphamari town. Mohammad Khaded Rahim, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Nilphamari district, Dewan Kamal Ahmed, Chairman of Nilphamari Pourosova, different government department officials, NGOs representatives, School & College students and huge numbers of village women were participated in the rally. Near about 7-8 hundred of peoples were present in the rally. Md. Jomil Project Coordinator of Seeds of Survival (SoS) project; Abdul Kuddus Sarker M&E Coordinator of USS, Mst. Shahnaz Begum project coordinator of PGEILKPI project and other staffs of USS were present in the rally.

Skill development training for Staff:

Skill development training held on Organic vegetable cultivation, Seed production & preservation and vermi compost production & using under Seeds of Survival (SoS) project at USS head office, Nilphamari on 28th August'2017 for technical knowledge development of staffs. Udayankur Seba Sangstha (USS) implemented the training supported with the USC-Canada. 14 participants participated in the training. Among the participants female and male were 8 & 6 respectively and note that 2 participant were direct right holder within the total participants. The training was inaugurated by Alauddin Ali, Executive Director of USS. The training was conducted over all by Md. Jomil, Project Coordinator, Seeds of Survival (SoS) Project. Md. Mazedul Islam, Upazila Agriculture Officer of Nilphamari Sader Upazila under Nilphamari district was presented in the training and important session conducted regarding organic vegetable production. Md. Abdul Kuddus Sarker was also presented in the training and played facilitation role during vermi compost production and using session. The following topics were discussed in the training: (1) Importance of Organic vegetable for human (2) How to produce vermi compost and use (3) How to prepare different organic pesticide and use in vegetable garden (4) Nature of damage of different vegetables by the insect pest and disease pest (5) Discussion regarding control measure of insect and disease pests of vegetables using organic pesticides 6) Technique of vegetable seed production and preservation.

All participants were committed that they will apply the gathered new knowledge in their family and working area level to production and consumption of organic vegetable for safe human from harmful effect of chemical pesticide. We will be able to play little role to safe environment as well as the earth through achieving Sustainable Development Goals 03 (good health & well- being) and 13 Climate action.

Successes: (one paragraph)

127members of SoS project are included and participating actively in community Dhan Bank executive committee, union standing committee, school management committee and local village court committees. 556 women participated and gave their opinions in marriage, selling or purchasing of their own choice.

Participation and attended rate has been increased of women in different events such as Eco and agriculture technology fair, rally, social activities, sports competitions or mobility in the markets. 6 other project staff of USS and 2 adolescent has received capacity building training from USS SoS project.

Challenges: (one paragraph)

Women leadership in social structure is so far. Lack of social security specially for women.

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

Initiatives for active participation of women in holistic development

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

Government is playing effective and positive role for empowering the women and their rights

3.5. Youth Engagement

Arranged of Environment and Seed Fair'2018

Udayankur Seba Sangstha (USS) has organized day long Environment and Seed Fair by right holders with the support of USC-Canada at New Model Pre-Cadate School play ground of Palashbari union under Nilphamari Sador Upazila on 14 March'2018 for technology dissemination of local vegetable seeds production, storage in house and organic vegetable production. Right holders were displayed different technology in 13 stalls. The stalls were ARC seed bank, Community Seed Bank, seed model house activities, Local variety vegetable seed production plot, Participatory Variety Selection (PVS) seed plot, organic pesticide production & use, organic vegetable production, vermi compost production & storage, germplasm conservation, organic vegetable market corner, pre-school activities, Dhan bank activities, gender equality project activities.

Orup Roton Roy, Vice Principal of New Model Pre-Cadate School was as chair person of the fair, Agriculturist Md. Abul Kashem Azad Deputy Director (DD) of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) Nilphamari district was chief guest and agriculturist Mazedul Islam Upazila Agriculture Officer of Nilphamari Sador upazila was also attended as special guest of stall investigation and discussion session. Profullo Kumer Roy & Jannatun Fardous, Sub-assistant Agriculture Officers were present in opening event, Abdul Kuddus Sarker coordinator of M&E of USS was present whole day of the fair.

Chief Guest emphasized on production, storage and use of local varieties of vegetable seeds applying organic methods in his discussion for reduce dependency to seed seller and save money. Special guest said Bangladeshi people are not well aware regarding organic vegetable consumption but huge amount of organic vegetables demand in abroad especially in Europ sub continent and there may export organic vegetables. Organic vegetable help to keep good human health & soil and save environment.

A drama team organized a drama on seed production, preservation, organic vegetable production & consumption for raising awareness. A debate competition was held on the theme of **people awareness is main to produce organic vegetables**. Poroshmoni high school debate team was participated in favour of the above mention theme and Kokoi Borogacha P.C High School participated as opposition debate team. Kokoi Borogacha P.C High School selected as winner team by wise judge team.

Exposure visit report:

Udayankur Seba Sangstah (USS) organized an exposure visit under Seeds of Survival (SoS) Project at Japan funded organization name Hunger Free World (HFW) of Chandanbari union of Boda upazila under Panchaghor district on 09th January'2018 for knowledge gathering regarding organically agriculture crop production. There were total 13 person participated among them male staff, female staff & women right holder under SoS project were 6, 5 & 2 respectively in the learning visit. All of participants has learned regarding innovative techniques and activities especially vermi compost, heap compost and bokoshi compost production and using technique with specific rate per unit land. Our participants have also learned how to prepare organic pesticide using Neem leaf, Drum stick leaf, Mahogini leaf and seeds, Cattle urine and EMU preparation, Bordomixture preparation and apply to control pest. Sex pheromon is an excellent technique to control cucumber fruit flies. EMU is an exceptional liquid bio pesticide which is use to control both insect pest and disease pest successfully of horticulture and agronomy crops.

EMU preparation procedure: There are two kinds of fungus and other materials need to prepare EMU.

One kind of fungus growing procedure: At first boil Anchor pulse then keep in perforated plastic bottle and then the bottle keep in straw heap for seven days.

Another kind of fungus growing procedure: At first boil rice keep in perforated plastic bottle and then the bottle keep in soil under bamboo garden for seven days.

100g sour curd, 1kg molasses, 1litre rice wash water, 50g YEAST and 4 litre fresh water will be kept in plastic jarkin and then above two types of fungus will be add in the container with help of table spoon for keep 7 days. EMU may be spray dilution with water following specific ratio like 0.5 L EMU with 16 L water for vegetable and 03L EMU with 16L water for potato & rice to control disease and insect. EMU are use as a seed treatment reagent to control disease of different types of crops.

Bokashi is a high nutrient contains organic fertilizer and act as a bio pesticide to control disease.

Bokashi compost preparation procedure: 10kg Hen bista + 10kg rice polish + 10kg rice brand + 10 kg oilcake + 01 L EMU+ 09L water will be keep in plastic bag for 7 days for preparation of organic fertilizer and multiply of EMU fungus. Bokashi compost use rate 03kg per decimal land.

Through the above activities contribute to achieve the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) like Good Health and Well-being, Climate Action, Life Below Water and Life on Land.

The visit conducted with leading of Md. Jomil, project coordinator of SoS project and Abdul Kuddus sarker, M&E coordinator of USS was present in the exposure visit. We have inspired to see the above activities practically and we will try to apply of your technique in our working areas to produce organic vegetable and fruits.

Successes: (one paragraph)

Members are started leafy and vegetable production through using vermi compost. Youth are playing vital role to preventing child marriage and violence against women. Participation of youth are increasing in decision making process in family and society

Challenges: (one paragraph)

Elders of family and society are not emphasis opinion of young. Most of the youth are involved in education and other profession so sometimes attendance rate is low in the project activities

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

Work increase to awareness build-up of elders and young. Increase involvement of elders in activity.

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

Young are more positive to accepting new idea. Demand of organic product increasing day by day in market

3.6. Best Practices Documentation and Spread of SoS

Activities description: 3 case studies have been documented from best practice during the reporting period. The documentations are consists project seeds and Agriculture technology fair, Eco and seed fair, germplasm conservation, vegetable cultivation through organic method, PVS plots demonstrations, mustard cultivation by vermi compost, demonstrate local variety seeds plots through organic, using and producing brinjal, potato, green pea, Tomato, Chilli, vermi compost, seeds collection and preservation through bio pesticide. Pictures of different activities are attached herewith. Project staffs collected those documentations.

Successes: (one paragraph)

Documentations are uses in the meeting, workshop, and training as learning materials in field. Field facilitators are more encouraged as they think it is the recognition of their efforts. Documentations are helping to the staffs to develop networking and communication with GO/NGOs. Organizational reputation increased.

Challenges: (one paragraph)

Insufficient budgets for documentation. Lack of skills of field facilitators

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

To arrange skill development training for staffs. Collective efforts and support from organizational management

Opportunities: (one paragraph)

Committed staffs and other staffs of the organizations extended their supporting hand. Right holders are very cooperative and they have many success stories for documentation

Succeed of Carrot production

Johura Begum (30 year) is a women farmer of village Bamandanga under Polashbari Union. Her family consists of husband Nazrul Islam (40), two sons and one daughter. Her parents provided marry when her age 14 years. She is take sansara works on her shoulder after marriage. Nazrul Islam did not get homestead land and other assets from his parents. He was baring family expenditure through pulling Ricksha at Dhaka city and purchased 7 decimal lands and made of house on that land. Their financial deficiency is been increasing day by day due to children borne one after another. Johura Begum Said “Kono Kono Din Ekbela Khaya O Hamer Din Gacha ” in that time. Johura Begum started Poultry, Duck, Goat and Cattle rearing to reduce financial dependency on her husband. Her husband comes back from Dhaka to own village and start vegetable business. He purchase vegetables from grower and sell to holeseller at large market. Johura Begum included to Bamandanga Babupara youth group under SoS project of USS supported by USC-Canada in 2015. She participates in monthly meeting and gathers knowledge regarding organic vegetable production as a result her interests grow to produce organic vegetables. Depending her interest USS select her and provide training on organic vegetable cultivation. Johura

start organic vegetable cultivation using vermi compost, cowdung after gain knowledge regarding organic vegetable cultivation. She cultivated Carrot in 5 decimal land in last winter season applying vermi compost and spray bordomixture to fungal diseases. They eat of Carrot and get Tk. 4200 selling. Johura cultivate different types of vegetables regularly round the year and near about Tk. 7000-8000 earn from 5 decimal of land. Now they are very good with her husband and childern.

Kunti Rani controlled bitter gourd pest effectively by sex pheromon

Kunti Rani Roy age 27 years husband Purnoram Roy lives in Budermondir para under Laxmichap union of Nilphamari district. They has two son elder son name Papsal read in class nine younger son name Hemal read in standard nursery. There are four members in their family. They cultivate vegetables but do not get more yields due to destructive infestation of insect and disease of their garden. Kunti Rani Roy included as a Budermondir para youth group under SoS project of USS in 2015. She gathers knowledge on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) from Community Facilitator of SoS project. She cultivates bitter gourd at 5 decimal land using vermi compost. She set sex pheromon trap in bitter gourd garden as a part of IPM to control fruit fly insect. Note that she sprayed chemical pesticide intensively to control pest as result pollination was hampered and yield reduced. Setting of sex pheromon traps both pollination and yield has increased. She has earned Tk. 7000 from selling bitter gourd. She thinks this pest management procedure is very effective and it is helpful to keep soil and environment healthy. She said that other vegetables will cultivate in next season applying vermi compost and setting sex pheromon trap.

Familiar of Lovely as model of vegetable seed producer

Lovely Begum age 22 years is a Araji Itakhola Youth Group member of SoS project under palashbari union of Nilphamari district. She has a small family consist a daughter age 02 year and husband age 26 years. Her father in law gave 30 decimal of lands and then separate them from his family. Lovely start cultivation field crops and different vegetables and try to reduce different deficiency from her family. Her husband goes to Dhaka to works at garment. She involved at USS-SoS project in 2015. She participate of monthly meeting regularly and gain knowledge on how to cultivate organic vegetable in bed using vermi compost , organic pesticide etc. and production, harvest, collection and storage of seeds. She also get knowledge from Community Facilitator (CF) of SoS project regarding vermi compost production techniques and benefits of human, soil & environment through organic vegetable cultivation using vermi compost. Then she starts organic vegetable production with her own producing vermi compst. Her family members are consuming organic vegetables regularly and extra vegetables are selling in market now. Lovely produce, collect and storage different kinds of vegetable seeds at home properly for cultivation next season, sell and provide to neighbour & relatives. She has decided to cultivate different types of vegetables organically in homestead areas instead of field crops because vegetable production is more profitable than field crops. Lovely Begum earns Tk. 20000-25000 per year to sell organic vegetables and seeds. There are 20 varieties of vegetable seeds in her house. She is very happy to cultivate organic vegetable by her own seeds & vermi compost and provide to relatives and neighbours.

3.7. Program Innovations adapted seed varieties and best practices disseminated

Group members are collecting new seeds from the other areas and keeping those in the community seeds banks and this is how the new variety of seeds are spreading in the working areas as well other areas. As a result are, Green pea, cown, sesame, Khira, Mathi, Tomato, Brinjal, Katua leaf, Bakla Pea, newly added seeds in the community seeds bank.

Successes: (one paragraph)

Dependence to market for purchase seeds are decreasing. Seed exchange increasing inter and intra community. Members are now capable to swing seed timely. Family income of right holders is increasing. Different kinds of varieties and species of seeds are increasing and spreading.

Challenges: (one paragraph)

Some members cannot follow proper process conservation of seed. Some of the seeds collected from outside are affected by disease. Seeds collection from outside of working area takes time to adapt with the soil and environment. At first farmers want not cultivate new varieties.

Adjustments: (one paragraph)

High yielding of leafy and vegetable are seed extension. Knowledge and skill develop of right holder on proper seed conservation.

4. Organizational development

Describe any key strategies and/or activities undertaken to increase the capacity of **your** organization to implement the new program. This pertains only to you as an organization, and not to the communities you are supporting. Please also highlight challenges encountered or to be addressed.

Management committee of USS has taken initiatives to implement the project smoothly. Management committee supervises the project activities regular basis. Government and civil society organizations have taken positive steps to preach safety food. As a result societies are standing for to preach to cultivate organic productions. USS reputation has been increased for the reason of implementing SoS project. Coordination and effective relationship has been developed with government departments and civil society organizations. Some activities were needed for develop communication and advocacy but minimum was limitation.

• Recruitment of new staff

➤ None

• Capacity building/training of existing staff

➤ Staff capacity has been developed through training and continue sharing knowledge and practicing

• Improvement of financial or administrative procedures

➤ Additional responsibilities of Accounts and Admin performed officer who is fully assigned for head office. Mostly he performs official activities by desk work. He could perform field based support as well official works if a staff is recruit (if possible)

• Strengthening of your organizations' infrastructure, materials and equipment.**• Organizational assessment**

➤ Organizational assessment is needed to develop organization and sustainable.

• New alliances and relationships with other organizations and institutions

➤ USS is the member national committee of World Rural forum. USS wants to keep effective contribution to the committee. USS is developing effective coordination and relationship with Department of Agricultural Extension and Seed production department of Bangladesh government like BADC, SCA, and research organization. As a result project is keeping effecting contribution and on the other hand organizational ability developed.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation activities**

➤ USS monitoring cell is working efficiently to monitor and evaluate the project activities. To develop more capacity of monitoring cell, capacity and skills (Human resource, training, equipment) partial support is needed from the project.

5. Outputs Please Update Table 1 from the Semi Annual Attached to this message

		Activities	Target	Achievement	Male	Female	Total	Remarks
Output 1: Farmer-driven research and innovations developed to strengthen seed security and promote the sustainable use and conservation of plant genetic resources (PGRs)								
1.1 Assess specific needs in local seed systems through USC's Seed Security Assessment Methodology ⁱ								
1.2 Increase access to seed diversity through participatory varietal selection (PVS) and diversity kits, to address local seed system needs	01	PVS Workshop	02	02	09	41	50	
	02	PVS Setting	10	10	02	08	10	
	03	Farmers Field day	02	02	51	299	350	
1.3 Establish new community seed banks (CSBs) and promote the organization of CSB networks to enhance seed security and diversity	04	Strengthening ARC seed bank	4	4	0	0	0	
1.4 Multiply and disseminate adapted seed varieties to strengthen climate resilience and productivity through CSBs, community-based seed production, networking of seed producers, seed fairs and diversity kits.	05	Demonstrate Local variety Seed Plot	10	10	02	08	10	
1.5 Provide training on seed production for vegetable or other crops for which								

dependence on external seed sources is high								
1.6 Support CSB associations and farmer groups to develop strategies to enhance their sustainability	06	Plastic mat	100	100			100	
	07	Materials support for group	114	114	0	0	114	
Output 2. Practices implemented to improve natural resource management and diversify farming and food systems diversifying farming and food systems								
2.1 Provide training, material and support to apply soil conservation and compost management	01	Develop Vermi compost cluster	40	40	0	40	40	
	02	Demonstrate Organic Pesticides	10	10	38	263	301	
2.2 Support the diversification of agricultural production systems, through women and youth-managed market and home gardens	03	Established Organic Market Corner	02	02	02	0	02	
	04	Established Germplasm conservation plot of indigenous crop species	10	10	0	10	10	
2.3 Support farmer-driven research and innovation to reduce field and post-harvest losses								
Output 3. Developed/ strengthened small farm based enterprises and promote marketing of seeds and other high value agro biodiversity products								
3.1 Carry out value chain, market analyses and feasibility studies for seeds and other high value agrobiodiversity products from home and group gardens	01	Market analyses and feasibility studies workshop	0	0	0	0	0	
	02	Trg. on high value crop production of selective farmers	0	0	0	0	0	
	03	High Value crop Linkage to marketing	0	0	0	0	0	

3.3 Provide training to community-based women's and youth groups in financial management, book-keeping, and organizational development	04	Provide training & Materials support to on record keeping & financial management the group leader	0	0	0	0	0	
Output 4. Gender equality and youth engagement strategies developed implemented to promote women and youth's leadership, economic empowerment and access to resources								
4.1 Provide opportunities for youth to engage in collective initiatives and to develop leadership skills	01	Training on gender for the youth & yang farmer.	2	2	09	44	53	
	02	Day observation on women rights	01	01	225	486	711	
Output 5. Best practices and evidence based knowledge on program results analyzed and documented								
5.1. Organize events such as seed fairs and produce user friendly materials for knowledge sharing and dissemination	01	Arrange Seed Fair	01	01	300	1000	1000	
		Develop Local Seed Album						
5.1.3 Annual publication on field base farmers success, PVS, PGR, CSB etc		Annual publication on field base farmers success						
5.2 Coordinate exchanges among farmers (including women and youth) and local partners to reflect on innovations and best practices	02	Exposure visit for farmers and staffs USC partners	1	1	6	7	13	
	03	Annual reflection	1	1	20	22	42	
	04	Quarterly staff meeting	4	4	4	3	7	
	05	Skill development raining	1	1	6	8	14	

Output 6. Program innovations, adapted seed varieties and best practices disseminated through knowledge sharing, training and policy outreach and influenceⁱⁱ								
6.1 Provide hands-on training to other key actors (NGOs, government agencies,) to integrate Seeds of Survival practices such as CSBs, PVS, etc into their programs								
Other Activities								

6. Outcomes

Please work with your team (management and field staff) to reflect on and respond to the following questions

Please provide specific examples as much as possible. The more detailed the better!

You may also attach other documents (workshops reports, memoranda of understanding, newspaper articles, and e-mail communications) that provide further evidence related to your answers.

1. Please describe any **external factors that occurred between May 2017 and April 2018 that affected the food and farming systems of farmers in SoS program regions.** *We are particularly interested in whether there have significant climate events such as extreme weather, drought, or flooding. We would also be interested in any other social, economic, political or other types of pressures that have affected the farming communities you are working with.*

Nilphamari district was affected by flood like other district of Dinajpur, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Sirajgonj, Pabna of Bangladesh. Flood was occurred due to heavy rainfall during 05 days from 09th August 2017 to 13th August 2017 and at the same time water came from north part of India and over flow of Jomunashori, Buri Khor & Dewnai river water. Flood affected people faced in shelter problem with their assets like Cattle, Goat, Sheep, Hen and Duck. People were taken shelter on school ground and other raise place. Flood was happened at SoS project activities. The following assets including SoS project activities like organic vegetable garden, Vermi compost are damage due to flood.

Organic Vegetable Garden: Different Organic vegetable as well as chemical vegetable garden like Bitter gourd, Parble, Okra, Papaya, Bottle gourd, country bean, Long yard bean, Aram, Brinjal, Zinger, Snake gourd etc and seed bed of Cabbage, Cauliflower seriously damage. Mara leaf, Red amaranth, Indian spinach, Water spinach, Jute leaf, Radish are partially damage for the reason of flood. On an average near about 80% vegetables are damage due to flood. Laxmichap union was more affected by flood then Palashbari union.

Vermi compost: SoS, Alo Project support provided and own initiative vermi compost producing ring were inundated due to flood & heavy rainfall and more warm has died in Laxmichap union than Palashbari union. 90 Vermi compost has damaged out of 135 at Laxmichap Union and 30 vermi compost also has damaged out of 92 at Palashbari union.

2. In general, **how did the young women farmers respond to the external factors** described in #1 above? Did you observe any **differences** in how **men, women, youth**, or other specific groups **responded**? *Here we are interested to farmers' responses in areas affected (including but not limited to program participants). Give specific examples (e.g. describe a situation you observed, quotes of what you heard people say, share data on the impact from other sources).*

Most of the farmers cultivated vegetables from their own house preserve seeds after flood. Many farmers collected worm from vermi compost pit before inundate by flood water. 152 farmers took support from community seed bank because they could not purchased seeds from market. Near about 5% farmers purchased seed from the nearest market even nearest district and cultivated vegetables after flood.

Near about 80% community peoples cultivated vegetables after flood from own house stored seeds and purchasing seed from market and taken from neighbors & relatives. Vermi compost producer again has also involved vermi compost production through repairing vermi shade and replace of worm from vermi pit to another safe place during flood and collecting worm from neighbors with facilitation of community facilitator of SoS project.

3. **How did participants' ability to respond** to external factors described in #1 **compare** to farmers who have not participated in the program or compared to other similar situations you have witnessed? Did the **program contribute** to participants' ability to respond? How? *Give specific examples (e.g., describe a situation you observed, provide specific quotes of what you heard people say, share data on the impact from other sources).*

98% project right holder farmers could stand second time to cultivate vegetables due to sudden heavy rainfall and flood. But other famers out of the project could cultivate only 50% in second time.

4. Are there any **other factors (beyond the program) that have either facilitated or limited** participants' ability to respond to external factors described in #1? *Give specific examples (e.g., describe a situation you observed, provide specific quotes of what you heard people say, share data on the impact from other sources).*

Considering destructive flood USS distributed different vegetables seeds, worm & vermi compost to 60 right holders who are most affected by flood and whose was no ability to overcome the loss. Each right holder get 5 types of vegetable seeds like Spinach, Red Amaranth, Country bean, Bottle gourd & Sweet gourd and they also get 10 kg of vermi compost & 250 gram of Worm. 35 right holder of Laxmichap union & 24 right holders of Palashbari union get those above support among total 60 right holders under SoS project

5. Are there **strategies that the program needs to develop in the future to better support participants' ability to respond to external factors**? Is there specific support that USC can offer to help you do this?
- Workshop/training can be arranged to increase awareness of vegetable producers and consumers on negative affect to human body for consuming of chemical food especially inorganic vegetables and fruits, soil and environment at working areas.
 - Harmful chemical measure in vegetables related works should take of Bangladesh. Research

- works should continue on human who are consume chemical vegetables purchase from market. Nutrition ensures related works may take. These type works may consider in next project design.
- Effective organic pesticide should find out through research.
 - Biological agent (like *Tricoderma Spp.*) grow in vermi compost to control disease causing organism of vegetables and fruits.
 - Sex pheromon and other insect attracting effective trap support.
 - Successful organic vegetables and fruits production farm visit abroad for knowledge development of staffs.

Adoption of Practices and Policies

6. Between May 2017 and April 2018, have you observed any **actions which demonstrate that actors in your country are adopting practices or policies** that support farmers rights, agro-biodiversity, seed security or other principles promoted by the SoS program? *Please give specific examples describing the changes you have observed. Note that these changes do not need to be directly related to your program.*

Yes. USS organized Environment and Seed Fair by right holders with the support of USC-Canada at New Model Pre-Cadate School play ground of Palashbari union under Nilphamari Sador Upazila on 14 March'2018 for technology dissemination of local vegetable seeds production, storage in house and organic vegetable production. Agriculturist Md. Abul Kashem Azad Deputy Director (DD) of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) Nilphamari district was chief guest and agriculturist Mazedul Islam Upazila Agriculture Officer of Nilphamari Sader upazila was also attended as special guest of stall investigation and discussion session. Profullo Kumer Roy & Jannatun Fardous, Sub-assistant Agriculture Officers were present in opening event. All they were expressed their opinion in favour of organic production and process.

7. Between May 2017 and April 2018, have you observed any **actions which demonstrate that actors in your country are showing increased interest, awareness, or recognition of practices or policies** that support farmers rights, agro-biodiversity, seed security or other principles promoted by the SoS program? (i.e. signs that actors could be moving toward adoption?). *Please give specific examples describing the changes you have observed. Note that these changes do not need to be directly related to your program.*
- District agriculture department is working on vermi compost for extension. Department is purchasing vermi compost from SoS project farmers and supplying to the selected farmers. They are taking technical support from SoS project staffs to establish vermi compost pit. On the other hand some of the NGOs and other institutions are purchasing vermi compost from the project farmers. As a result project farmers are getting financial benefit as well vermi are being extension and farmers are showing interest to produce.
 - Environment and seed fair is effective for awareness raising and interest increase all kinds of participants like students, teachers, farmers etc on seed diversity, vermi compost production, organic vegetable production & sell.
 - USS uploads most of the event of SoS project in the **website: www.ussnilphamaribd.org** and **facebook: www.facebook.com/uss.nilphamari** where reader are providing recognition of practices and showing interest.
8. **Has the program contributed (directly or indirectly) to any of the changes described in #6 or #7 above?** If so, explain how the program contributed, as well as any other factors you think were important in influencing other actors. Are there **strategies** that the program needs to develop in the future to better

support external stakeholders adopting policies or practices that represent the values and approaches used by this program? Is there specific support that USC can offer to help you do this?

Under the SoS project 1420 families are producing organic vegetables and 350 families are influenced out of the project who are also producing organic vegetables. 545 families are producing vermi compost but they are not getting the actual market price. Marketing facilitation is very much needed to get the actual price of vermi compost.

7. Lessons learned and other comments

Please describe any lessons learned during this reporting period and any other useful information or observations regarding your program. Please explain whether changes in the context or re-evaluation of activities call for a revision or change of project plans or targets.

- Youth are very easily accepting the innovations like sex pheromon use to control pest, Bordomixture spray to control fungal diseases, vermi compost use in different crops especially in potato and parble cultivation and implementing accordingly.
- Right holders are well aware regarding consumption of organic vegetable
- The project right holders are now aware on information of service providing department. So they are communicating with service providing institutions and getting service easily.
- Women are participating in the family decision making process as they developed leadership.

Comments:

USS reputation is increasing day by day through networking to work regarding organic vegetable production and marketing. Management team member of a reputed national NGO name RDRS Bangladesh has already visited organic vegetables cultivation fields. The organization has decided to learning visit of USS organic vegetables cultivation areas by their staffs. RDRS Bangladesh has interested to work with USS regarding organic agriculture production and marketing. Some private company which are supply vegetables in large market in Bangladesh and abroad has shown interest to work jointly with USS regarding organic vegetables production and marketing. Organic vegetables sell probability is creating in working areas. Chemical vegetables consumption negative impact study should need to do on human health to grow more interest for organic vegetables consumption. Project areas are needed to extend and increase right holders numbers for strengthening journey on production and selling of organic products.











